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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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DOWELL & DOWELL P C
1215 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
SUITE 309
ARLINGTON, VA 222023124

EXAMINER	
HA, YVONNE QUY M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2664	8

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/475,047	SIMARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yvonne Q. Ha	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-100* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *97-99* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6, 8-13, 15, 19, 20, 22-28, 30-33, 44-53, 60-96, 100* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *7,14,16-18,21,29,34-40 and 54-59* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 March 2004* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 3/9/2004 has been entered. Claims 1-100 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 22-27, 30-33, 44-47, 49-53, 65, 66, 89, 91-94, 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strawczynski (US Patent 6,522,633) in view of Kerr (US Patent 5,844,600).

Referring to claims 1, 22, 23, 44, 96, Strawczynski discloses a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572), comprising: a receiver capable of being coupled to a network (figure 6, reference 542), said receiver to receive at least one media data packet from at least two sources forming a media conference (figure 6, references 506-507), each media data packet defining a compressed media signal (col.2, line 19, low bit rate signal); an energy detection (figure 6, reference 538) and talker selection unit (figure 6, reference 542) coupled to said receiver to determine at least one speech parameter corresponding to each of the compressed media signals (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-20); select a set of the sources within the media conference as talkers based on the determined speech parameters (col. 2, lines 22-24). Strawczynski failed to teach compressing packet overhead, the receiver removes the packet overhead. However, Kerr discloses the receiving end strips off the overhead and send payload

data to the buffer. The data is then decompressed and provided to the data sink (col. 11, lines 8-16). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski conference arrangement for use of wireless and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams. The synchronization process includes a sink clock to the source program by stripping the transport cell overhead to the phase lock loop. The coding and decoding process involves the sink clock synchronized to the source clock. This is well known for clocking and synchronization.

Referring to claims 2, 24, 47, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches media data packets are audio data packets and the compressed media signals defined by the media data packets are compressed audio signals (col. 4, lines 60-62, low bit rate speech signal).

Referring to claims 3, 25, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches the speech parameter corresponding to each of the compressed media signals is a number of bytes within each of the compressed media signals (col. 5, line 7, low bit rate converted to mux signal, which is the same composite signal that send to end node).

Referring to claims 4, 26, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose the speech parameter corresponding to each of the compressed media signals is a pitch value within each of the compressed media signals (col. 2, line 22).

Referring to claims 5, 27, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose the speech parameter corresponding to each of the compressed media signals is an energy level corresponding to each of the compressed media signals (col. 2, line 22-26).

Referring to claims 8, 10-12, 30, 32, 33, 45, 51-53, 92-94, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches an output unit coupled to the energy detection (figure 6, reference 538) and talker selection unit (figure 6, reference 542), the output unit, for each of the received compressed media signals (figure 6, reference 554), to: determine whether the compressed media signal corresponds to a talker within the media conference parameter (col. 5, lines 53-58, selecting of valid low bit rate); and if determined that the compressed media signal corresponds to a talker (col. 6, lines 1-7), encapsulate the compressed media signal and output the encapsulated compressed media signal to the sources within the media conference except the source corresponding to the compressed media signal (col. 6, lines 28-35, i.e. if talker is not all for mobile side but mix with PSTN terminal, taking the weighted sum and re-encoding).

Referring to claims 9, 31, 50, 91, Strawczynski discloses all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches the set of the sources within the media conference selected as talkers comprises one of first and second sources selected within the media conference as primary and secondary talkers respectively (col. 6, line 36, both are mobile users), one of the sources selected within the media conference as a lone talker, and none of the sources selected within the media conference as a talker (col. 6, line 29, if one of the speaker is PSTN terminal).

Referring to claim 46, Strawczynski discloses a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572), comprising: a receiver capable of being coupled to a network (figure 6, reference 542), said receiver to receive at least one media data packet from at least two sources forming a media conference (figure 6, references 506-507), each media data packet defining a compressed media signal (col.2, line 19, low bit rate signal); an energy detection (figure 6, reference 538) and talker

selection unit (figure 6, reference 542) coupled to said receiver to process the received compressed media signals including selecting a set of the sources within the media conference as talkers (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-20); and an output unit coupled to the energy detection (figure 6, reference 538) and talker selection unit (figure 6, reference 542) to output media data packets that correspond to compressed media signals received from the talkers (figure 6, reference 554); and wherein the media data packets corresponding to the lead talker are always output from the conference bridge in the same order as the media data packets which are received from the lead talker (col. 3, lines 28-38). Strawczynski failed to teach compressing packet overhead, the receiver removes the packet overhead. However, Kerr discloses the receiving end strips off the overhead and send payload data to the buffer. The data is then decompressed and provided to the data sink (col. 11, lines 8-16). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski conference arrangement for use of wireless and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams. The synchronization process includes a sink clock to the source program by stripping the transport cell overhead to the phase lock loop. The coding and decoding process involves the sink clock synchronized to the source clock. This is well known for clocking and synchronization.

Referring to claim 48, Strawczynski discloses all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach the time stamps. However, Kerr discloses the time stamp generation diagram for audio and video (col. 10, lines 33-37; figures 3, 4a, 4b, 6a, 6b). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Strawczynski low bit rate signals and Smart teaching of data compressor with the time stamp on data stream of Kerr.

Time stamps are provided in the video data stream so to compare the incoming clock information to local clock information where delay can be determined. If it is determined the delays of the video, the known audio delay can be applied to the audio signal.

Referring to claim 49, Strawczynski discloses all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches to select a set of the sources within the media conference as talkers (col. 5, lines 49-52), the energy detection and talker selection unit operates, for each of the received compressed media signals, to determine whether the compressed media signal contains speech based on the corresponding speech parameter (col. 5, lines 53-58, selecting of valid low bit rate); if determined that the compressed media signal contains speech, determine whether the compressed media signal corresponds to a previously selected talker (col. 6, lines 1-7); and if determined that the compressed media signal does not correspond to a previously selected talker, determine whether a maximum number of talkers parameter is met, discard the compressed media signal and select the source corresponding to the compressed media signal as a talker (col. 6, lines 28-35, i.e. if talker is not all for mobile terminal but mix with PSTN terminal, taking the weighted sum and re-encoding).

Referring to claims 65 and 66, Strawczynski discloses a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572), comprising conferencing control logic (figure 6, reference 550) to: receive at least one media data packet from at least two sources forming a media conference (figure 6, references 506-507), each media data packet defining a compressed media signal (col.2, line 19, low bit rate signal); process the received compressed media signals including selecting a set of the sources within the media conference as talkers (col. 2, lines 22-24); and output media data packets that correspond to compressed media signals received from the talkers (figure 6,

reference 554); and wherein the media data packets corresponding to the lead talker are always output from the conference bridge in the same order as the media data packets which are received from the lead talker (col. 3, lines 28-38).

Referring to claim 89, Strawczynski discloses a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572), comprising: a receiver capable of being coupled to a network (figure 6, reference 542) to receive at least one first media data packet from at least one source within a media conference (figure 6, references 506-507), each first media data packet defining a first compressed media signal (col.2, line 19, low bit rate signal), and receive at least one second media data packet from at least one other conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-20), each second media data packet defining at least one second compressed media signal corresponding to a particular source within the media conference (col. 2, lines 22-24); and an energy detection (figure 6, reference 538) and talker selection unit (figure 6, reference 542) coupled to the receiver to select a set of the sources within the media conference as talkers based upon the compressed media signals within both the first and second media data packets (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-20). Strawczynski failed to teach compressing packet overhead, the receiver removes the packet overhead of first media packet and at least one second media packet. However, Kerr discloses the receiving end strips off the overhead and send payload data to the buffer. The data is then decompressed and provided to the data sink (col. 11, lines 8-16). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski conference arrangement for use of wireless and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams. The synchronization process includes a sink clock to the source program by stripping the transport cell overhead to the phase lock loop.

The coding and decoding process involves the sink clock synchronized to the source clock. This is well known for clocking and synchronization.

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 6, 28, and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strawczynski (US Patent 6,522,633) in view of Kerr (US Patent 5,844,600) and in further view of Polomski (US Patent 6,584,077).

Referring to claims 6, 28, and 90, Strawczynski and Kerr teach all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach the media data packets are compressed audio/video data. However, Polomski teaches the method of video and audio teleconference via compression technique (figures 2 and 22). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams with Polomski audio/video teleconference. The merging technologies of voice and data are known in the industry, so the demand for combining both voice and data to a conference bridging is well known.

3. Claims 13, 15, 67-78, 86-88, 95, 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strawczynski (US Patent 6,522,633) in view Kerr (US Patent 5,844,600) in further view of Smart (US Patent 5,845,243).

Referring to claims 13, 15, 95, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach the compression and decompression of signals wherein the two signals are mixed and combined for encapsulation. However, Smart discloses the technique of compression and decompression to achieve simultaneous voice and data transmission (col. 5, lines 23-30; col. 12, lines 36-44). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing with Smart compression/decompression signals. Data compression and decompression is well known in the art to break input data stream into individual data frames with fixed samples and reconstructing the data back to its original state. This technique would reduce processing hardware requirement in a network.

Referring to claims 67, 69, 70, 71, 74-77, 86-88, 100, Strawczynski discloses a packet-based apparatus (figure 1), comprising: a receiver capable of being coupled to a network (figure 6, reference 542), said receiver to receive a media data packet from a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 506, 507). Strawczynski failed to disclose the removal of the packet overhead and the technique of compressing/decompressing packet data. However, Kerr discloses perform initial processing of the received media data packet comprising removing the packet overhead (col. 11, lines 7-15). Smart discloses the media data packet defining two or more compressed media signals to decompress each of the compressed media signals in order to generate corresponding uncompressed media signals, mix the uncompressed media signals into a combined media signal, and output the combined media signal (col. 5, lines 23-30; col. 12, lines 36-44). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing with Kerr

overhead removal and Smart compressing/decompressing data. Data compression and decompression is well known in the art to break input data stream into individual data frames with fixed samples and reconstructing the data back to its original state. Compressing of the signals is required in plurals. It is obvious if the compressed signal is not saved, and then generates another signal for compression. In order to decompress data back to its original compressed state, the transport cell overhead is removed before sending to buffer for decompressing.

Referring to claims 68, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teach the media data packet is an audio data packet and the compressed media signals within the media data packet are compressed audio signals (col. 4, lines 60-62).

Referring to claim 72, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches a speaker coupled to the output unit to receive the combined media signal and broadcast audio signals corresponding to the received combined media signal (col. 5, lines 51-56).

Referring to claim 73, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches packet-based network interface wherein the combined media signal is arranged to be output, via a non-packet-based network, to a non-packet-based telephone terminal (Figure 1, reference 106; col. 2, lines 19).

Referring to claim 78, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teaches a packet-based wherein the media data packet is an audio data packet and the compressed media signal within the media data packet is a compressed audio signal (col. 4, lines 60-62, low bit rate signal).

4. Claims 19, 20, 60-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strawczynski (US Patent 6,522,633) in view of Kerr (US Patent 5,844,600) and in further view of Foster et al. (US Patent 6,466,550).

Referring to claims 19, 20, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach the set of the sources comprises one of first, second and third sources selected within the media conference as primary, secondary and tertiary talkers, first and second sources selected within the media conference as primary and secondary talkers respectively, one of the sources selected within the media conference as a lone talker. However, Foster discloses the mixing signals and arbitration scheme with four talkers where two talkers could be mixed or arbitrate with only one talker (figures 4, 6, 8; col. 5, lines 17-24). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams with Foster mixing signals and arbitration scheme. Instead of centralized bridging, the Foster arbitration gives the ability to utilize voice compression with low delays and bandwidth requirements.

Referring to claim 60, Strawczynski discloses a packet-based network (figure 1) comprising a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572) and a plurality of packet-based terminals (figure 1, reference 2); wherein at least two of the plurality of packet-based terminals operates to output media data packets comprising compressed media signals (figure 6, references 506-507), these packet-based terminals together forming a media conference (col.2, line 19, low bit rate signal); wherein the conference bridge operates to receive the media data packets from the packet-based terminals within the media conference (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-

20); to process the compressed media signals corresponding to the received media data packets including selecting a set of the packet-based terminals within the media conference as talkers (figure 6, reference 542; col. 2, lines 22-24); and to output media data packets that correspond to the compressed media signals received from the talkers (figure 6, reference 554); and wherein at least one of the packet-based terminals within the media conference further operates to receive the media data packets output from the conference bridge (col. 3, lines 28-38) and to process these received media data packets including performing a jitter buffering operation, the jitter buffering operations being performed within the packet-based terminals only. Strawczynski failed to disclose performing a jitter buffering operation, the jitter buffering operations being performed within the packet-based terminals only. However, Foster discloses all arriving packets at receiving end must be buffered to encompass packet jitter (col. 3, lines 58-65). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams with Foster buffering packets on the receiving end. Buffer is used in computers to eliminate the jitter associated with random delays in the packet switching network. Such delay degrades the quality of the communication link.

Referring to claims 61 and 62, Strawczynski discloses a packet-based network (figure 1, wireless terminals) coupled with a non-packet based network (figure 1, PSTN network) comprising a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572) and a plurality of packet-based terminals (figure 1, reference 2); wherein at least two of the plurality of packet-based terminals operates to output media data packets comprising compressed media signals (figure 6, references 506-507), these packet-based terminals together forming a media conference (col.2, line 19, low

bit rate signal); wherein the conference bridge operates to receive the media data packets from the packet-based terminals within the media conference (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-20); to process the compressed media signals corresponding to the received media data packets including selecting a set of the packet-based terminals within the media conference as talkers (figure 6, reference 542; col. 2, lines 22-24); and to output media data packets that correspond to the compressed media signals received from the talkers (figure 6, reference 554); and wherein at least one of the packet-based terminals within the media conference further operates to receive the media data packets output from the conference bridge (col. 3, lines 28-38) and to process these received media data packets including performing a jitter buffering operation, the jitter buffering operations being performed within the packet-based terminals only. Strawczynski failed to disclose performing a jitter buffering operation, the jitter buffering operations being performed within the packet-based terminals only. However, Foster discloses all arriving packets at receiving end must be buffered to encompass packet jitter (col. 3, lines 58-65). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing and Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams with Foster buffering packets on the receiving end. Buffer is used in computers to eliminate the jitter associated with random delays in the packet switching network. Such delay degrades the quality of the communication link.

Referring to claim 63, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teach a conference bridge (figure 6, reference 572), comprising: a receiver capable of being coupled to a network (figure 6, reference 542), said receiver to receive at least one media data packet from at least two sources forming a media conference (figure 6, references

506-507), each media data packet defining a compressed media signal (col.2, line 19, low bit rate signal); an energy detection (figure 6, reference 538) and talker selection unit (figure 6, reference 542) coupled to said receiver to determine at least one speech parameter corresponding to each of the compressed media signals (figure 6, reference 572; col. 2, lines 17-20); and select a set of the sources within the media conference as talkers based on the determined speech parameters (col. 2, lines 22-24).

Referring to claim 64, Strawczynski and Kerr disclose all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach the compression and decompression of signals wherein the two signals are mixed and combined for encapsulation. However, Smart discloses the technique of compression and decompression to achieve simultaneous voice and data transmission (col. 5, lines 23-30; col. 12, lines 36-44). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing with Smart compression/decompression signals, Kerr systems transporting multimedia conference data streams, and Smart compression/decompression technique. Data compression and decompression is well known in the art to break input data stream into individual data frames with fixed samples and reconstructing the data back to its original state. This technique would reduce processing hardware requirement in a network.

5. Claims 79-85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strawczynski (US Patent 6,522,633) in view Kerr (US Patent 5,844,600) and Smart (US Patent 5,845,243) in further view of Foster et al. (US Patent 6,466,550).

Referring to claims 79, 80, 81, Strawczynski, Kerr, Smart disclose all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach buffering the compressed media signal for jitter after the

removing of the packet overhead from the received media data packet. However, Foster discloses all arriving packets at receiving end must be buffered to encompass packet jitter (col. 3, lines 58-65). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Strawczynski low bit rate signals for conferencing with Kerr overhead removal and Smart compression with Foster buffering packets on the receiving end. Buffer is used in computers to eliminate the jitter associated with random delays in the packet switching network. Such delay degrades the quality of the communication link. Data compression and decompression is well known in the art to break input data stream into individual data frames with fixed samples and reconstructing the data back to its original state. Compressing of the signals is required in plurals. It is obvious if the compressed signal is not saved, and then generates another signal for compression. In order to decompress data back to its original compressed state, the transport cell overhead is removed before sending to buffer for decompressing.

Referring to claim 82, Strawczynski, Kerr, Foster disclose all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach wherein to identity at least one other uncompressed media signal that corresponds to the first uncompressed media signal. However, Smart discloses data compressor is to perform a wavelet transform on the data (figure 2). The decompression block performed reconstruction of a portion of the wavelet coefficients where the recovered wavelet coefficients transform the data back into time domain (col. 12, lines 36-45).

Referring to claim 83, Strawczynski, Kerr, Smart disclose all aspects of the claimed invention but failed to teach the time stamps. However, Kerr discloses the time stamp generation diagram for audio and video (col. 10, lines 33-37; figures 3, 4a, 4b, 6a, 6b). At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Strawczynski low bit rate signals and Smart teaching of data compressor with the time stamp on data stream of Kerr. Time stamps are provided in the video data stream so to compare the incoming clock information to local clock information where delay can be determined. If it is determined the delays of the video, the known audio delay can be applied to the audio signal.

Referring to claim 84, Strawczynski, Kerr, Smart disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teach a speaker coupled to the output unit to receive the combined media signal and broadcast audio signals corresponding to the received combined media signal (col. 5, lines 51-56)

Referring to claim 85, Strawczynski, Kerr, Smart disclose all aspects of the claimed invention and further teach packet-based network interface wherein the combined media signal is arranged to be output, via a non-packet-based network, to a non-packet-based telephone terminal (Figure 1, reference 106; col. 2, lines 19).

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments, see page 37 of amendment, filed on 3/9/2004, with respect to the rejection(s)of claim(s) 63, 69 under 35 USC 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Foster, Kerr and Smart.

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 8-13, 15, 19, 20, 22-28, 30-33, 44-53, 60-96, 100 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 7, 14, 16-18, 21, 29, 34-43, 54-59 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13. Claims 97-99 are allowed.

Conclusion

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne Q. Ha whose telephone number is 703-305-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7a.m.-4p.m. Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ajit Patel can be reached on 703-308-5347. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YQH

Ajit Patel
Primary Examiner